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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAXBY CHAMBLISS, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain today is the Rev. Neil D. Smith, of Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Kingstown, VA, who will lead the Senate in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, from Whom all blessings flow and to Whom all praise belongs:

May Your blessing rest on this Senate and on this Nation, not because we deserve Your blessing but because we need it.

Deliver us, we pray, from the tyranny of the expedient, that we might always seek to do what is right, whether or not it is politically advantageous in the moment.

Deliver us from evil, and from the evil acts and intentions of those who oppose the values of faith and freedom we cherish in this Nation.

Grant to the men and women of this Senate wisdom, grace, and courage for the living of these days. May Your grace abound to them so that, in all things at all times, having all that they need, they may abound in every good work, to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAXBY CHAMBLISS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAXBY CHAMBLISS, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CHAMBLISS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, we will have a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes. The first 30 minutes of that time will be under the control of the Democratic leader, and the second 30 minutes will be controlled by this side of the aisle. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 150, a bill relating to the taxation of Internet access.

Last night, the Senate invoked cloture on the motion to proceed by a vote of 74 to 11. Under the agreement reached following that vote, there will be an additional 2 hours 40 minutes remaining for debate on the motion. Following that debate, the motion will be agreed to, and the Senate will begin consideration of the Internet tax legislation. No vote will be necessary on proceeding. However, votes are expected today in relation to amendments that may be offered to the underlying bill.

I stated yesterday that it is my desire to consider the Internet access tax bill over the course of the next few days and to complete the bill prior to the end of the week. Hopefully, we can make progress today. Senators are encouraged to notify the managers of the bill if they intend to offer amendments to the bill.

I also remind my colleagues that the Senate will recess from 12:45 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. today for the weekly policy lunches.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the two leaders have some business to transact. I ask unanimous consent that when the Chair announces morning business, on our side Senator BOXER be given the first 5 minutes; Senator DURBIN the next 5 minutes; Senator WYDEN, 10 minutes; Senator LEAHY, 10 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that, as the leader just indicated, the morning business time be a full 30 minutes on each side, taking into consideration the fact that the Democratic leader and, perhaps, the Republican leader will give statements to the Senate under their leader time—so a full 30 minutes on each side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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